

**To:** Chairperson and Authority Members      **Date:** May 7, 2002

**From:** Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item 7 – High-Speed Rail Link between the Channel Tunnel and London

**Discussion:**

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link is the United Kingdom's first major new railway for over a century – a high-speed train line running 68 miles between London and the Channel Tunnel. Once completed a non-stop trip from London to Paris will take 2 hour and 15 minutes and just 2 hours from London to Brussels. Additionally, domestic travel times will be halved, a trip from London to Ashford will take just over 35 minutes compared to the current 75-minute travel time.

ARUP as part of the London and Continental Railways consortium won the franchise to “design, build, finance, and operate” the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Colin Stewart, ARUP's Director of Rail Business will present an update of their work on this project.